Retail outlets of Oil PSUs

3512. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KAHN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of the retail outlets set up in Tamil Nadu by the Central Government PSUs during the last three years;

(b) the locations proposed to be set up during the next three years; and

(c) the number of retail outlets which are in existence in Tamil Nadu, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) During the last three years, i.e. 2002-03 to 2004-05, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), *viz.,* Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hinudstan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and IBP Co. Ltd set up 648 retail outlets at various locations in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) These OMCs tentatively plan to set up 774 more retail outlets at various location in the State during the next three years, *i.e.* 2005-06 to 2007-08.

(c) As on the 1st March, 2005, OMCs had 2,196 retail outlets in different districts in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Involvement of Ministry of External Affairs in Indo-Iran Project

†3513. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) progress made in high-level talks between Iran, Turkmenistan and Myanmar, including various other countries regarding Indo-Iran gas pipe line project;

(b) whether his ministry would undertake consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs regarding progress made in the said project and talks to be held with various countries;

(c) whether the said work was handled by Ministry of External Affairs till recently;

(d) whether any representative from the Ministry of External Affairs would be included in the meetings to be held at international level; and

(e) whether the pipe line which is to be laid between Iran and India would pass through Pakistan and who will be responsible for the security of the said pipe line?

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†Ortginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.